

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing system ~~including~~
comprising:

a first information processing apparatus connected with a first network and also
connected with a second network via an address translator for addresses translation[.];

a second information processing apparatus ~~that performs~~ configured to perform
communication with the first information processing apparatus[.]; and

a third information processing apparatus connected with the second network, for
managing communication between the first information processing apparatus and the second
information processing apparatus, wherein

the first information processing apparatus requests the third information processing
apparatus to provide information associated with connection of the second information
processing apparatus;

the third information processing apparatus provides an information associated with
the connection of the second information processing apparatus to the first information
processing apparatus;

the first information processing apparatus determines, on the basis of the information
provided by the third information processing apparatus, whether the second information
processing apparatus is connected with ~~[[the]]~~ a same network as that with which the first
information processing apparatus is connected; and

the first information processing apparatus performs communication with the second
information processing apparatus ~~in such a manner~~ such that if the second information
processing apparatus is determined to be connected with the same network as that with which
the first information processing apparatus is connected, communication with the second

information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of [[an]] a network-specific address defined on the first network, while if the second information processing apparatus is determined not to be connected with the same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected, communication with the second information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of [[an]] a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized defined on the second network.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An information processing system according to claim 1, wherein

the first information processing apparatus requests the third information processing apparatus to provide, as the information associated with the connection of the second information processing apparatus to the first information processing apparatus, [[an]] the global address, defined on the second network, of the second information processing apparatus;

the third information processing apparatus provides, as the information associated with the connection of the second information processing apparatus to the first information processing apparatus, the global address, defined on the second network, of the second information processing apparatus; and

the first information processing apparatus determines, on the basis of the global address, defined on the second network, of the second information processing apparatus, whether the second information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An information processing system according to claim 1, wherein

the first information processing apparatus requests, as the information associated with the connection, information indicating whether the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus are connected with the same network;

the third information processing apparatus examines whether the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus are connected with the same network and the third information processing apparatus provides ~~[[the]]~~ a result of the examination as the information associated with the connection; and

the first information processing apparatus determines, on the basis of ~~[[the]]~~ a received information indicating the result of the examination performed by the third information processing apparatus, whether the second information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An information processing system according to claim 3, wherein the third information processing apparatus examines whether the first information processing apparatus and the second information processing apparatus are connected with the same network, on the basis of addresses~~[[,]]~~ defined on the second network, of the first information processing apparatus and the second information processing apparatus.

Claim 5 (Original): An information processing system according to claim 3, wherein the third information processing apparatus examines whether the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus are connected with the

same address translator to examine whether the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus are connected with the same network.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An information processing system according to claim 5, wherein the third information processing apparatus examines whether the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus have the same global address defined on the second network to examine whether the second information processing apparatus and the first information processing apparatus are connected with the same network.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An information processing method for an information processing system including a first information processing apparatus connected with a first network and also connected with a second network via an address translator for addresses translation, a second information processing apparatus that performs communication with the first information processing apparatus, and, a third information processing apparatus connected with the second network, for managing communication between the first information processing apparatus and the second information processing apparatus, wherein

the first information processing apparatus requests the third information processing apparatus to provide information associated with connection of the second information processing apparatus;

the third information processing apparatus provides an information associated with the connection of the second information processing apparatus to the first information processing apparatus;

the first information processing apparatus determines, on the basis of the information provided by the third information processing apparatus, whether the second information

processing apparatus is connected with ~~[[the]]~~ a same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected; and

the first information processing apparatus performs communication with the second information processing apparatus ~~in such a manner~~ such that if the second information processing apparatus is determined to be connected with the same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected, communication with the second information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of ~~[[an]]~~ a network-specific address defined on the first network, while if the second information processing apparatus is determined not to be connected with the same network as that with which the first information processing apparatus is connected, communication with the second information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of ~~[[an]]~~ a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized ~~defined~~ on the second network.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus that performs communication with another information processing apparatus, the information processing apparatus being connected with a first network and also connected, via an address translator for addresses translation, with a second network with which a server is connected, the information processing apparatus comprising

request means for requesting the server to provide information associated with connection of said another information processing apparatus;

reception means for receiving information associated with the connection of said another information processing apparatus from the server; and

communication means for performing communication with said another information processing apparatus ~~in such a manner~~ such that the communication means determines, on the

basis of the information received from the server, whether said another information processing apparatus is connected with ~~[[the]]~~ a same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, and if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, the communication means performs communication with said another information processing apparatus on the basis of ~~[[an]]~~ a network-specific address defined on the first network, while if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is not connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, the communication means performs communication with said another information processing apparatus on the basis of ~~[[an]]~~ a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized ~~defined~~ on the second network.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the request means requests, as the information associated with connection of the second information processing apparatus to the first information processing apparatus, ~~[[an]]~~ the global address, defined on the second network, of said another information processing apparatus; and

the communication means determines, on the basis of the global address, defined on the second network, of said another information processing apparatus, whether said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

the request means requests, as the information associated with the connection, information indicating whether said another information processing apparatus and the information processing apparatus are connected with the same network; and

the communication means determines, on the basis of the information supplied from the server, whether said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected.

Claim 11 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the request means requests, as the information indicating whether said another information processing apparatus and the information processing apparatus are connected with the same network, information indicating whether said another information processing apparatus and the information processing apparatus are connected with the same address translator.

Claim 12 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the request means requests, as the information indicating whether said another information processing apparatus and the information processing apparatus are connected with the same address translator, information indicating whether said another information processing apparatus and the information processing apparatus have the same address.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

the first network is a LAN;

the second network is the Internet;

the network-specific address on the first network is a local address; and

the different address on the second network is a global address.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein if the information received from the server indicates that said another information processing apparatus is not connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, the request means further requests the server to provide [[an]] the different address, defined on the second network, of the information processing apparatus.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is not connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, the communication means transmits the different address, defined on the second network, of the information processing apparatus to said another information processing apparatus via the server and receives the different address, defined on the second network, of said another information processing apparatus via the server.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, the communication means transmits the network-specific address, defined on the first network, of the information processing apparatus to said another information processing apparatus via the server and receives the network-specific address, defined on the first network, of said another information processing apparatus via the server.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus that performs communication with another information processing apparatus, the information processing apparatus being connected with a first network and also connected, via an address translator for addresses translation, with a second network with which a server is connected, the information processing method comprising the steps of:

requesting the server to provide information associated with connection of said another information processing apparatus;

receiving information associated with the connection of said another information processing apparatus from the server; and

performing communication with said another information processing apparatus in such a manner that determination as to whether said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected is made on the basis of the information received from the server, and if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, communication with said another information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of ~~[[an]]~~ a network-specific address defined on the first network, while if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is not connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, communication with said another information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of ~~[[an]]~~ a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized defined on the second network.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A computer program product having computer readable instructions ~~program~~ for causing a computer to perform processing associated with an information processing apparatus that performs communication with another information processing apparatus, the information processing apparatus being connected with a first network and also connected, via an address translator for addresses translation, with a second network with which a server is connected, the processing comprising the steps of:

requesting the server to provide information associated with connection of said another information processing apparatus;

receiving information associated with the connection of said another information processing apparatus from the server; and

performing communication with said another information processing apparatus in such a manner that determination as to whether said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected is made on the basis of the information received from the server, and if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, communication with said another information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of ~~[[an]]~~ a network-specific address defined on the first network, while if it is determined that said another information processing apparatus is not connected with the same network as that with which the information processing apparatus is connected, communication with said another information processing apparatus is performed on the basis of ~~[[an]]~~ a different address than the network-specific address, said different address being a global address that is recognized ~~defined~~ on the second network.

Claim 19 (Original): An information processing apparatus connected with a first network and a second network, for managing communication between a first apparatus and a second apparatus, the first apparatus being connected with the second network via an address translator for address translation, the information processing apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving, from the first apparatus, a request for determination as to whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected;

examination means for examining whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected; and

informing means for informing the first apparatus of the result of the examination performed by the examination means.

Claim 20 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the examination means examines whether the first apparatus and the second apparatus are connected with the same address translator to examine whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the examination means examines whether the first apparatus and the second apparatus have ~~[[the]]~~ a same address to examine whether the first apparatus and the second apparatus are connected with the same address translator.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein

the first network is a LAN;

the second network is the Internet;

[[the]] an address on the first network is a local address; and

[[the]] an address on the second network is a global address.

Claim 23 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the informing means transmits 1-bit data indicating the result of the examination performed by the examination means to the first apparatus.

Claim 24 (Original): An information processing method, in an information processing apparatus connected with a first network and a second network, for managing communication between a first apparatus and a second apparatus, the first apparatus being connected with the second network via an address translator for address transformation, the information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving, from the first apparatus, a request for determination as to whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected;

examining whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected; and,

informing the first apparatus of the result of the examination performed in the examination step.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A computer program product having computer readable instructions ~~program~~ for causing a computer to perform processing associated with an information processing apparatus connected with a first network and a second network, for

managing communication between a first apparatus and a second apparatus, the first apparatus being connected with the second network via an address translator for address transformation, the processing comprising the steps of:

receiving, from the first apparatus, a request for determination as to whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected;

examining whether the second apparatus is connected with the same network as that with which the first apparatus is connected; and,

informing the first apparatus of the result of the examination performed in the examination step.